The aforesaid quantity of the 29,923 tonnes has now been lifted by F.C.I. from the ports.

(c) STC and MMTC are fully cooperating and coordinating at present in the lifting of imported sugar stocks from the ports.

(d) The entire quantity of imported sugar relating to STC unloaded at the ports till yet has been lifted by the Food Corporation of India.

(e) and (f) The present policy of licensing, including the option of delicensing, is being examined in all aspects.

Import of Sugar

585. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR :
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the shorfall in sugar production this year was first perceived and the need for import of sugar assessed ;

(b) if so, the steps for import of sugar which were intiated by STC and MMTC;

(c) whether the delay in procurement of sugar from international market, was used by sugar cartels to corner sugar and import it through private channels, which resulted in loss to Government agencies, having been forced to pruchase it from abroad at rates so boosted; if, the total estimated loss incurred on this account;

(d) whether withdrawal of FCI orders for imports of sugar also resulted in any loss; and

(e) if so, to what extent ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For augmenting supplies to the Public Distribution System STC and MMTC were directed to import sugar. So far these public sector undertakings have finalised contracts for import of about 9.34 lakh tonnes sugar. Out of this, about 0.84 lakh tonnes has already arrived at Indian shores.

(c) According to the Commerce Ministry, the prices at which STC and MMTC have imported sugar are in line with the import prices of the other Indian importers.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Question does not arise.

Import of sugar

586. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether imported sugar has been exempted from regulatory measures relating to stock holding limits and transportation to ensure its free flow to consumers and its availability on reasonable and competitive rates:

(b) whether import of raw sugar has also been placed under open general licence; if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the quantity of sugar imported this year so far through Government agenies and private avenues, separately; and

(d) what steps have been taken to prevent exploitation of the relaxations of regulations by vested interests?